

MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 16, 2013

Members Present: Molly Flueckiger, Susan James, Janice Dallas, Mike Rademacher,
John Thompson, Heidi Hample
Members Absent: Kerrie Fallon, Rachel Buonopane, Maureen St. Hilaire
Others Present: Jack Jones, Director of Housing & Disability Programs

Corrections September 2013 Meeting Minutes

1. Comment re: Pavers and Crosswalks. 7th bullet, "the road is being paved because they trugged up the street". Replace "trugged" with dug. Strike "Cost to remove was significantly more than to repair". To Clarify, the decision to leave the crosswalk as is was not based on cost. Modifying the crosswalk was out of scope of the project. National Grid did not damage the crosswalk, just the road. There is no requirement for National Grid to repair the crosswalk as it was not damaged. The work is not yet completed, but is expected to be completed soon.
2. "Discussion of buildings not needing new inspection". Use "as" instead of "Has". Approved as amended.
3. Error for the date listed as our "Next Meeting". Replace November 20 with October 16th.

Town Day

Heidi provided the Suggestion Box for Town Day. Jack said that he appreciated Heidi's work and felt that the suggestion box was a good idea.

From Suggestion Box –

1. "Make ACOD meetings available in evening for folks."
2. "Appreciation of 6 temporary handicapped accessible spots next to 20 Academy St. that were provided for Town Day."
3. Kate Ryan a woman with a previous complaint said that she would be "Happy to do training on types of non-visible disabilities." Molly will follow up with Kate.

For next year's suggestions, name and contact information should be recorded.

1. Question as to how to remove accessible parking spots on residential streets that are no longer needed –Yellow House on Varnum St. No contact information was left.
2. Interest in more services and support groups for individuals with disabilities. Jack discussed a 0% interest loan that the Town provides for income eligible homeowners with a disabled household member that is provided to retrofit their homes.

Mike recommended summarizing answers to question in next edition of Newsletter.

Mike advises not to use Arlington List because people get confused between the Arlington List and Official Town information.

Molly suggests a Q&A about handicapped parking spots in an official Town e-mail.

Heidi suggests we publish the information obtained at Town Day in the Advocate
Molly reminded the Commission about an Advocate Education Session.
We also have 5 names and e-mail addresses. We have no plan on how to use these e-mail addresses.

Access Newsletter

For next year we should have copies available in large print
A resident offered Braille printing service. Can we cost-justify printing in Braille?
What is the demand for Braille in Arlington?
What is the name and number of the woman who volunteered to help us print in Braille?
Heidi Hample offered to contact her.
Jack to give Heidi info after meeting.

Observations and Actions at Town Day

Wexler was the prime attraction. Thank you John!
Since the booth was not covered at certain times by ACOD folks, we need a booth sign-up schedule for next year.
Need weights for table legs so it doesn't blow away. Perhaps place the banner behind the table, above ground so it is easier to see.
Editor(s) needed for next year's Access Newsletter. Sue and Heidi offered their editing services. Access distribution: Distribute Access at Town Hall entrance, Library and local Lahey Clinic branch.

ADA Coordinator's Report:

Jack said that Mr. Saruo reported having tripped on the brick sidewalk on the way to the Heights Barber Shop, 1317 Mass. Ave.
We do not know the stakeholders involved, or the process to add or modify handicapped parking spots in Commercial Districts. Should we ask complainant to write letter to Board of Selectmen to request the spot? Should we keep a list of individuals who trip on brick sidewalks? Mike warns of misunderstanding because people trip on all types of sidewalks. It would be nice to have a list of all dangerous sidewalks.
Decorative cornstalks placed on pedestrian traffic signals in Arlington Heights have made it difficult for blind residents to locate the button on traffic poles as reported by Barbara Jones. Approval was granted to decorate telephone poles, but not pedestrian traffic signals. Mike will contact Ted Fields within two days about removing the corn stalks from traffic signal poles.

Jack reported on the responsibilities of ADA Coordinator to Burt Pusch.
Mike and Jack will attend a meeting on October 22nd of a low vision-support group that meets monthly at 20 Academy Street.

Mike suggested we need a running list of tasks with date received, task issued, assigned to whom, priority level. Mike said he'd look for a copy of a similar report used by TAC and send it to Jack.

ADA Coordinators meeting – October 2nd, approximately 20 people attended, Myra Berloff Director of MOD said that MOD would like to hold these meetings at least twice a year for ADA Coordinators. Jack will provide Commission Members with Meeting Handouts.

Election of Commission Officers – Term November 2013 through October 2014.

Molly, Chair

Heidi, Co-Chair

Rachel, Secretary

Other Business

Susan discussed a recent 60 Minutes episode with a controversial segment on the perceived “danger” of individuals with mental illness. The segment portrayed a discriminatory, stigmatizing, and invalid representation of individuals with mental illness. Susan proposes writing a letter on behalf of the Commission to 60 minutes in opposition to the story.

Molly said that 60 minutes also showed a segment on SSDI fraud that was also misleading. October is Disability Employment Awareness Month. The Arlington Commission on Disability plans to sponsor again this year the Diversity Career Fair in 2014 with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission.

Meeting time- What is the best time for the Commission Meetings? John mentioned that someone at Town Day suggested we move the time of our Commission Meeting’s to better fit the schedule of more residents.

Wednesday November 20, 2013 @ 8:00 PM, the Arlington Human Rights Commission will have a speaker from the MBTA talking about accessible taxi programs.

Heidi shared Cambridge’s Access Newsletter
Arlington Public News – are there opportunities to participate.

Adjournment